

Representation from Thea Thomas

~~The row of six terraced shops with accommodation were build by Queen Victoria to house the horse guard Officers. Along with the town hall, they are the centre piece to the East Cowes town centre conservation area. I purchased this property, adjacent to Betty's Door, that was in need of complete renovation to restore it to it's original condition. As a listed building, it was necessary to replace many of the windows to the exact replication of the originals. Without the benefit of double glazing, excessive noise can be very intrusive. Although welcoming new business's into the area, the perceived expansion of a coffee shop into a licensed premises, with the associated increase in noise and possible disturbances, seems inappropriate to what is primarily a residential area. These are ideal large family orientated terraced properties.~~

~~Allowing an establishment to hold an alcohol licence in this conservation area is surely detrimental to the ethos of maintaining a historic part of the town in it's traditional value. On these grounds, I object to this application.~~

Correspondence to Thea Thomas 25 January 2023

Good morning Thea

Thank you for your comments in relation to the premises licence application for Betty's Door. I have included below some further information that may alleviate the concerns that you have raised, specifically conditions that the applicant has agreed with the police licensing department and some information from the applicant which may help.

I would ask that you consider this information and advise asap whether or not your concerns have been addressed and whether or not your representation still stands.

It is important to note that only comments that you have made in respect of the four licensing objectives are considered relevant to this application. If this matter proceeds to a hearing of the Licensing Sub Committee then only comments in relation to the objectives will be considered as part of the decision making process and you will not be able to comment on any other issue you have raised including use of the building as this is a planning consideration. The four licensing objectives are:

The prevention of public nuisance

Public Safety

The protection of children from harm

The prevention of crime and disorder.

Conditions agreed between the applicant and the police

- 1. All staff involved in the sale or supply of alcohol will receive licensing training that includes appropriate precautions to prevent the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18, the signs and symptoms of drunkenness, the refusal of service due to intoxication and age verification policy. Records will be kept of such training which must be signed and dated by the member of staff who has received that training. All staff will receive refresher training every six months as a minimum and records shall be signed by the staff member, dated and retained. These records shall be made available to Police and Council upon request and shall be kept for at least one year.*

2. *A refusals / ID checks / incident book or computer record shall be maintained by staff. These records shall be retained for a minimum of 1 year and be made available to the Police and Council upon request.*

3. *A 'Challenge 25' proof of age policy shall be in place. Challenge 25 means that that every individual, who visually appears to be under 25 years of age and is seeking to purchase or be supplied with alcohol, shall produce identification proving they are 18 years age or older. Acceptable identification for the purposes of age verification will include a driving licence, passport or other ID containing a photograph and date of birth. If the person seeking alcohol is unable to produce acceptable means of identification, no sale or supply of alcohol will be made to or for that person unless exemptions apply within the Licensing Act 2003.*

4. *A written record shall be retained at the bar area to list the staff that have been authorised to sell or supply alcohol following their training. This shall be made available to the Police and Council upon request.*

The application requests that the sale of alcohol be authorised for supply between the hours of 11am and 4pm only with extended hours until 8.30pm on Christmas Eve, New Years' Eve and during Cowes Week. The Environmental Health department have returned a response of "no adverse comment."

Applicant's comments to your representation

I would argue that this end of Clarence Road where Betty's Door is situated, whilst mixed, is more of a commercial area than residential. We are in the heart of the town with multiple businesses already in operation including a hairdresser's, a homeware store, pet shop, an estate agents, a chip shop, a Conservative Club (which has late night opening hours, music licence and alcohol licence), the Liberal club which regularly gets used by the local Mayor and a café with outdoor seating. Furthermore, just opposite and on the same end of Clarence Road, there is another café which also has an alcohol licence with no seen issues around behaviour and noise. As already noted, we are only able to trade until 6pm, and with no live music licence and the ability to accommodate 28 covers at one time, I can't see that our noise level will increase any more than it currently is, which is of very minimal if any disturbance. I would argue there is more sound coming from passing traffic with the multiple trucks and lorries coming and going from nearby GKN premises. With the vast history of the town, we appreciate the concerns of allowing an establishment to hold an alcohol licence but alcohol has been a part of society for thousands of years, with a pub just down the same road dating back to Queen Victoria's reign.

I would ask that you consider the information above and advise me asap if this is sufficient to alleviate your concerns or if your representation still stands. If so I will arrange a meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee. You will be notified in due course of the date and time of the meeting. Whilst it is not mandatory for you to attend and speak, it is generally expected that you will do so if you do not consider the measures that have been recommended and agreed between the applicant and the responsible authorities, (which in turn will become conditions of the licence if granted), sufficient to uphold the four licensing objectives.

Please also be advised that if this matter does proceed to committee meeting the recommendation will be to grant the licence subject to the conditions that have already been agreed.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Andrea Bull | Senior Licensing Officer | Planning and Regulatory Services |
Isle of Wight Council | County Hall | Newport | Isle of Wight PO30 1UD

Response from Thea Thomas received 25 January 2023

Dear Andrea,

Thank you for getting in touch with me.

I am surprised that no consideration is taken into account of the "heritage" aspect of this listed section of the road. I was led to understand from the planning officer that there would be restrictions on the type of business allowed to take place in these listed shops.

In response to the comments from the Applicant below, I have this to say in response.

1. With the number of business's mentioned that already have alcohol licenses in close proximity to my property, one more can only increase the amount of noise and disturbance. Due to the listed status of these building, I was unable to install double glazing, which would have reduced the noise exterior noise level.
2. Although the hours of serving alcohol is at present restricted, there is a probability of extensions being requested and probably approved.

On this basis, and other comments that I have previously submitted, I do still object.

Yours sincerely,

Thea Thomas.

Quote: "I would argue there is more sound coming from passing traffic with the multiple trucks and lorries coming and going from nearby GKN premises"

On what evidence is this claim submitted? Traffic to GKN premises does not come down Clarence road, it proceeds down York Avenue to the entrance of GKN, close to the floating bridge. I am unaware of much traffic of any sort coming down Clarence road.